

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ANTIMONY IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2002

The price for antimony metal remained fairly steady during the first quarter. The New York dealer price range for antimony metal, published by Platts Metals Week, started and ended the quarter at \$0.62 to \$0.67 per pound.

Amspec Chemical Co. (Gloucester City, NJ), one of only three domestic antimony refiners, announced that it had ceased operations on February 18. Amspec had been producing mostly antimony trioxide from imported feedstock (Ryan's Notes, 2002).

Reports from China, the world's largest antimony producer, indicate that Chinese antimony ingot production is declining and many smelters are using stockpiled concentrates. With production in the Nandan area of Guangxi Province still suspended after the July 2001 fatal accident at the Longquan Mining Co. mine, antimony concentrate supplies have been

declining. Most of China's antimony production remains in Hunan and Guizhou Provinces. In Guangxi Province, only large smelters such as those at Chengyuan and Longning are still operating (American Metal Market, 2002).

A report from China indicates that mining activity has reduced China's antimony reserves to less than 40% of the global total (Platts Metals Week, 2002).

References Cited

- American Metal Market, 2002, Chinese antimony producers in supply pinch: American Metal Market, v. 110, no. 64-3, April 17, p. 5.
Platts Metals Week, 2002, Chinese antimony reserves declining: Platts Metals Week, v. 73, no. 11, March 18, p. 5.
Ryan's Notes, 2002, Amspec suspends operations: Ryan's Notes, v. 8, no. 8, February 25, p. 4.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2001		2002
	Total p/	Fourth quarter	First quarter
Production:			
Primary smelter 2/	20,900	W	W
Secondary	7,920	1,440	1,410
Imports for consumption:	37,900	9,750	2,330 3/
Ore and concentrate	2,290	112	157 3/ 4/
Metal	12,600	4,220	805 e/
Oxide 5/	23,000	5,410	2,170 3/
Exports:	8,350	9,340	5,320 3/
Metal, alloys, and scrap (gross weight)	1,080	2,250	439 3/
Oxide 5/	6,040	7,090	4,880 3/
Consumption of primary antimony	13,300	3,040 r/	3,520
Price: Average cents per pound 6/	65.50	63.84	64.70
Stocks, end of period 7/	10,300	4,680 r/	4,760

e/ Estimated. p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

2/ Nearly all smelter output is trioxide.

3/ Data for January and February only.

4/ All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

5/ Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

6/ New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.

7/ Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY IN THE
UNITED STATES 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material	2001 2/	2002 2/
	Fourth quarter r/	First quarter
Metal	560	667
Oxide	3,860	3,830
Other 3/	255	256
Total	4,680	4,760

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who held 90% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 2000.

3/ Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	2001 2/		2002 2/
	Total p/	Fourth quarter	First quarter
Metal	1,790	W	W
Oxide	11,500	2,580 r/	3,000
Other 3/	6	458 r/	519
Total	13,300	3,040 r/	3,520

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other."

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 69% of the total antimony in 2000.

3/ Includes sulfide and residues.

TABLE 4
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF
MATERIAL PRODUCED 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	2001		2002 2/
	Total p/	Fourth quarter	First quarter
Metal:			
Bearing metals and bearings	W	W	W
Other 3/	2,880	725 r/	844
Total	2,880	725 r/	844
Nonmetal:			
Ceramics and glass	W	W	W
Plastics	W	W	W
Other 4/	4,190	811 r/	813
Total	4,190	811 r/	813
Flame-retardants:			
Plastics	3,120	677 r/	704
Other 5/	3,110	820 r/	1,160
Total	6,230	1,500 r/	1,870
Total reported	13,300	3,040 r/	3,520

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other."

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 69% of the total antimony in 2000.

3/ Includes ammunition, antimonial lead, bearing metals and bearings, cable coverings, castings, sheet and pipe, and solder.

4/ Includes ammunition primers, pigments, ceramics and glass, and plastics.

5/ Includes adhesives, pigments, rubber, and textiles.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY CLASS AND COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class and country	2001			2002		
	Total p/ 2/	December	Fourth quarter	January	February	January-February
Ore and concentrate:						
Australia	314	--	--	--	--	--
China	1,530	--	40	40 3/	60	100
Other	444	24	72	32	25	57
Total	2,290	24	112	72	85	157
Metal:						
China	9,730	1,610	3,270	260 e/	460 e/	720 e/
Hong Kong	1,780	408	733	40 e/	--	40 e/
Mexico	667	--	84	--	--	--
Peru	--	--	20	--	20 e/	20 e/
Singapore	123	--	--	--	--	--
Other	315	45	110	20 e/	5 e/	25 e/
Total	12,600	2,060	4,220	320 e/	485 e/	805 e/
Oxide:						
Belgium	3,130	356	842	249	171	419
China	9,150	330	1,720	334	160	493
Hong Kong	656	--	--	--	--	--
Mexico	6,710	643	1,660	519	587	1,110
South Africa	3,110	--	990	122	--	122
Other	205	14	205	31	--	31
Total	23,000	1,340	5,410	1,250	917	2,170
Grand total	37,900	3,430	9,750	1,650 e/	1,490 e/	3,130 e/
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	94	11	31	2	--	2

e/ Estimated. p/ Preliminary. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes revisions to prior months data.

3/ All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.